

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

✓
Please cancel claim 7 without prejudice.

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action dated April 12, 2002. Claims 1 and 6 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by Brandt et al., 2001, J. Virol. 75(2):850-856. Claims 3 and 6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claim 7 is withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention.

In order to place the claims in condition for allowance, Claim 7 has been canceled without prejudice to Applicants' right to pursue the canceled subject matter in other patent applications. Furthermore, Applicants submit herewith a Request to Correct Inventorship Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(c)(1) to add Teresa A. Brandt as an inventor of the presently claimed invention thereby removing the cited reference as 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) prior art. As such, claims 1-6 remain pending. A clean copy of the claims that will be pending upon entry of this amendment is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

For reasons set forth in detail below, Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding rejections and objections be withdrawn and the pending claims be allowed.

The Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(a)

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Brandt et al., 2001, J. Virol. 75(2):850-856. Applicants submit herewith a Request to Correct